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AMID RISING U.S.-CHINA TENSION, BIDEN DIALS XI FOR FIFTH TIME

The call came amid China's warning against House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan, which Beijing considers its own

CALL LASTS FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS

The call began at 8:33 a.m. EDT and ended at 10:50 a.m. EDT, according to the White House. It took place as Biden aims to find new ways to work with China as well as to contain Beijing's influence around the world. Differing perspectives on global health, economic policy and human rights have long tested the relationship between the two countries | P12

VARIOUS FRICTION POINTS DISCUSSED

- The latest flashpoint was Pelosi's possible trip to Taiwan. China has warned of "forceful response" including military action
- During the call, Biden reportedly raised a number of friction points including China's aggressive behaviour towards neighbours and Beijing's reaction to the Ukraine war

1997

THE LAST TIME THE SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VISITED TAIWAN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

PM, Stalin bond as Chess Olympiad kicks off

Amid artistic performances, Tamil culture on display at inaugural of the sporting event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE State government put together a feast of Tamil culture as Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared open the 44th Chess Olympiad on Thursday amid visible bonhomie between him and Chief Minister M K Stalin. "Tamil Nadu has a strong historical connection with chess," said Modi, sporting a shawl and dhoti with a checked border, and referring to *Sathuranga Vallabhanathar*, the chess deity in Tiruvarur district's Thiruppovanur.

Hailing the organisers for making outstanding arrangements, the PM said this is the first time India is hosting the Chess Olympiad. It's also being held in Asia after three decades, he added. The event has attracted a record number of entries in the open (188) and women's (162) sections.

Indian chess legend Vishwanathan Anand handed over the chess torch, that had travelled across the nation, to Stalin.

Stalin said it took four months for the State government to host the Olympiad, after the event was moved out of Russia. "Usually, such an event takes 18 months (to organise)," he noted, adding the State spent ₹102 crore on hosting the event. Recalling Modi's fondness for chess, Stalin highlighted how Modi had presented a chess set to the Bhutan royal family.

The centrepiece of the evening's entertainment was a presentation on the State's ancient culture and civilisation. Through dance and music and a voiceover by actor Kamal Hassan milestones of Tamil history were depicted.

Earlier, State-level chess champions from State government schools carried masts of the participating countries into a packed Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium. Sand artist Sarvam Patel created magic with his skill by interspersing the ancient Mamallapuram shore temple, the game of chess, and portraits of Modi and Stalin. India's diversity was also showcased with eight forms of Indian classical dance being performed. Musician Lydian Nadhaswaram stole the show by playing the piano blindfolded. P17

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and TN Chief Minister M K Stalin with the Olympiad torch at the inauguration of the 44th Chess Olympiad on Thursday | PTI

Pakistan withdraws from Olympiad

Pakistan, who had registered five-member teams in both men's and women's categories, have withdrawn citing India's torch relay through Kashmir. All India Chess Federation secretary, Bharat Singh Chauhan, confirmed the news.

India, US to begin with black pieces

The top seeds in both categories — Open (US) and Women (India) — will have their top board player open the Olympiad with black pieces. The draw was yet to be published at the time of going to press.

Include photos of President and PM on ads, rules HC

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Wednesday directed the Tamil Nadu government to ensure advertisements for the Chess Olympiad also display photos of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The petitioner alleged only photos of Chief Minister MK Stalin were being displayed on advertisements

> **In sports, there are no losers, there are winners and there are future winners** - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

ON THE SOIL

SECOND MURDER WITHIN 48 HOURS JOLTS KARNATAKA

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

LESS than 48 hours after BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Nettaru was brutally murdered at Nettaru in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada, another youth was murdered at Suratkal near Mangaluru on Thursday evening. The CCTV footage from the spot showed Fazil (23), the victim, talking to another person in front of a shop when four masked men chased and attacked him with sharp weapons. He was rushed to a private hospital where he was declared brought dead.

The incident occurred when CM Basavaraj Bommai was still in Dakshina Kannada and was returning from Nettaru after visiting the family of Praveen. Fazil's killing comes at a time when the government is in a fire-fighting mode following the outrage from its own cadres over the death of Praveen.

Fazil

The motive behind Fazil's murder is still not known. While some sources said his murder could be in retaliation to Nettaru's killing, others said it has nothing to do with it but was a result of a love affair. Soon after the news of the incident spread, people shut their shops in Suratkal and the police beefed up security across the district.

Meanwhile, two persons were arrested in connection with the murder of Nettaru on Thursday. DK SP Rishikesh Sonawane said the accused are Zakir, 29, a resident of Savanoor village and Shafiq, 27, of Bellare village. P4

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaks to Praveen Nettaru's wife (second from right) at their residence in Bellare Puttur on Thursday. (Inset) Praveen | EXPRESS

CM: If need arises, we will adopt 'Yogi model'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said if the situation arises, the Karnataka government will not shy away from adopting Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's model to take tough action against anti-national and communal elements.

Under 'Yogi model', UP CM has made attempts to rein in anti-national elements by using bulldozers to raze houses and properties of people allegedly involved in riots.

Responding to a question on the demand by several BJP party workers and leaders on implementing the Yogi model, the CM said for the situation in Uttar Pradesh, Yogi (Adityanath) is the right chief minister. There are different methods to deal with the situation in Karnataka. "If the situation demands, we will go for Yogi model in Karnataka too," Bommai said.

Bommai government, which completed one year in office on Thursday, cancelled its first anniversary celebrations after a BJP youth leader's murder at Sullia in coastal Karnataka. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Bommai said the government is facing many challenges at present. There are forces which are trying to disturb communal harmony across the country, including in Karnataka. P4

WON'T REST UNTIL CULPRITS HELD: CM

CM handed over two cheques of Rs 25 lakh each from the government and the party. While consoling Praveen's elderly parents and wife Noothana, he said he will not rest until the culprits are arrested. Nettaru's mother told the CM that not just her family but families of all those murdered in the past should get justice. "No family should suffer like ours. Take strict action against those behind the incident," she said.

Sparks fly as Sonia, Smriti spar over Adhir quip

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

SPARKS flew in the Lok Sabha after it was adjourned at noon on Thursday as Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Union minister Smriti Irani's were locked in a verbal duel over the distasteful *Rashtrapatni* remark made by Congress floor leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Congress claimed Sonia was verbally assaulted and faced physical intimidation from BJP members led by Irani after the former walked across to the treasury benches to ask another BJP member Rama Devi why she (Sonia) was being targeted.

Chowdhury had termed President Droupadi Murmu as *Rashtrapatni* during a protest, with the ruling party demanded an apology. The matter is expected to rock Parliament on Friday as well, as Congress MPs intend to take it up with Speaker Om Birla seeking the BJP's apology. Around 25 Congress MPs have written to Birla demanding that it be referred to the Privileges Committee.

It was Irani who first raised the matter in the Lok Sabha, alleging Congress was anti-women and anti-tribal. Amid BJP slogans of "Sonia Gandhi *maafi mango*", Sonia walked up to Devi and asked why she was being dragged into it. While Sonia was talking to Devi, Irani intervened. Sonia tried to ignore her but when BJP MPs started sloganeering, she was seen talking to Irani angrily. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Sonia told Irani, "You don't talk to me."

BBMP QUOTA

SC to K'taka: Publish list within a week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Karnataka government to publish ward-wise reservation list for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) within a week to facilitate formation of local bodies within reasonable time.

"We direct the state government to immediately notify ward-wise reservation chart to facilitate the State Election Commission (SEC) to initiate appropriate steps for ensuring constitution of local bodies in accordance with the provision of Act. Within one week from today, the State will publish," the court said.

If there is any delay on the part of the SEC, a bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and J B Pardiwala, granted liberty to the aggrieved persons to approach the court.

State Advocate General Prabhuling K Navadgi apprised the bench that in compliance with its order of May 20, the State government completed the delimitation process on June 9 and also published the delimitation notification on July 14.

In May, the court had asked the Karnataka government to complete the process of delimitation of wards for BBMP and to notify the same within a period of eight weeks. P2

Mamata sacks corrupt Partha from Cabinet

PRONAB MONDAL @Kolkata

WITH the stench of corruption involving Trinamool's No 3 leader getting unmanageable, party boss and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday sacked Partha Chatterjee as a minister and suspended him from all party posts. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last Saturday in connection with the school jobs scam.

Parallelly, Chatterjee's aide and actor Arpita Mukherjee sought to distance herself from the stash recovered from her two apartments saying it was Chatterjee's money, adding she was not allowed to enter the rooms housing the notes.

During its raids, the ED had recovered nearly ₹50 crore from her two Kolkata houses. Mamata was under pressure from the party to wash her hands off the scam. Later, TMC's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee convened an emergency meeting of the party's disciplinary committee and axed Chatterjee from party posts. "We will take a call if he comes back with a clean chit," said Banerjee, the second-in-command in the party and Mamata's nephew.

Banerjee claimed the TMC has no link with the cash recovered from Arpita's house. "Our party has no connection with the persons from whose houses the money was recovered. If anyone earns money illegally, the party will not tolerate him or her," he said. However, the BJP alleged that many top TMC leaders, including Mamata, are involved in the scam. P10

Cash and jewellery recovered from the residence of Arpita Mukherjee | PTI

2 PILOTS DEAD

AS MIG-21 CRASHES IN RAJASTHAN

Two Indian Air Force pilots were killed when their twin-seater Mig-21 trainer aircraft met with an accident near Barmer on Friday night. A court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause

EXPRESS READ

Privileged darshans cancelled during Brahmotsavams

Tirupati: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has cancelled all privileged darshans during the Brahmotsavams scheduled between September 27 and October 5 in an effort to give priority to common pilgrims | P5

NATIONWIDE	JULY 27	JULY 28
Fresh cases	18,313	20,557
Recoveries	20,342	19,216
Deaths	57	44
KARNATAKA	JULY 27	JULY 28
Fresh cases	1,624	1,889
Recoveries	1,647	1,587
Deaths	2	3

LAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
July 27
36,40,863 doses
July 28
32,73,829 doses
TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED 2,21,39,34,150

Keeping Cubbon gate open till 11pm threat to museum

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

THE state government's plan to keep a gate of Cubbon Park open till late night, instead of till 9 pm, to give members of a tennis club run by Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association more time at the club has triggered criticism from various quarters.

Authorities concerned are planning to keep the road, which connects heritage museum on Kasturba Road to the tennis club, open till 11 pm.

Spread across 100 acres, Cubbon Park has seven entry/exit points including at Bal Bhavan, UB City and MS Building. One of the entrance/exit gates is next to Government Museum that was established in 1865 by the then Mysore State.

This is one of the oldest museums in India which is home to a rare collection of archaeological items, old jewellery, sculpture, coins and inscriptions. It also has Halmidi inscription, which is said to be the earliest Kannada inscription. P2

US in technical recession as GDP shrinks in 2nd qtr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

IN a negative surprise, the US GDP in the April-June quarter contracted 0.9% against analysts' estimate of a 0.5% growth. The negative growth comes close on the heels of a 1.6% contraction in the January-March quarter, which means the US is in technical recession.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis attributed the drop in real GDP to a decrease in private investment as well as government spending. The provisional GDP numbers, though, showed a rise in exports and personal consumption expenditures. Imports also increased.

The negative GDP growth number came a day after the Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell pointed to the robust labour market as evidence that the US economy is not in recession and said that at some point of time they will slow down the rate of interest hike.

Economists blame the US Federal Reserve's tighter monetary policy for the contraction. The Federal Reserve had on Wednesday increased the US policy rates by 75 basis points.

Following the release of data, the US markets fell up to 1% on early Thursday trade, though they later recovered the losses and traded in a flat range. The US GDP data, which indicates that the world's largest economy now is technically in the recession zone is expected to weigh on investors' sentiments worldwide.

CBI PROBE

Stash of DHFL promoters seized

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

RARE artworks of S H Raza and F N Souza. Luxury watches manufactured by Jacob & Co and Frank Muller Geneve. Loads of gold and diamond jewellery. The collective price tag: a whopping ₹12.5 crore.

They were not some uber-luxury collection on display but part of a stash of scam-tainted Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) directors Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan.

The items were seized by the CBI on Thursday. The agency was conducted searches in an ongoing case related to alleged loss of ₹34,615 crore by a consortium of 17 banks led by Union Bank of India.

The Jacob & Co (L) and Frank Muller Geneve watches seized by CBI | PTI

"Two paintings made by F N Souza (1964) another by S H Raza (1956) worth ₹5.50 crore; two watches of Jacob & Co & Frank Muller Geneve make worth ₹5 crore and gold and diamond jewellery, including bangles and necklace worth ₹2 crore have been recovered," the CBI said.

While Raza's 1956 oil-on-canvas painting titled 'Village' is worth over ₹3.50 crore, F N Souza's 1964-untitled oil-on-linen piece is valued at ₹2 crore. The accused siphoned off loans, cooked up books and created shell companies/false entities, known as 'Bandra Book Entities'.

Separate audits by other private auditing firms found multiple instances of diversion of funds by the accused for personal benefit and falsification of books of accounts. The audits also identified several instances where large value loans were provided to fictitious entities.